

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 01104 281455Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 STR-07 MCE-00
ACDA-12 /113 W

-----090219 291551Z /45

R 281437Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8146
INFO USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 01104

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MT, US
SUBJECT: FELICE VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 106181, (B) VALLETTA 1087

1. FELICE CAME BY TO SEE US YESTERDAY. HE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF HIS RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON AND SEEMED SATISFIED WITH HIS VISIT AND WHAT IT MIGHT ACCOMPLISH. HE HAD NO COMPLAINTS AND NO FURTHER REQUESTS.
2. FELICE SAID HE HAD SEEN MINTOFF AND HAD FOUND HIM ALSO SATISFIED WITH THE EXERCISE. HOWEVER, HE SAID MINTOFF'S REAL REACTION WOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE RESPONSE HE RECEIVES TO HI- LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT. (INCIDENTALLY, HE SAID HE HAD NOT HAD A HAND IN DRAFTING THAT LETTER EXCEPT TO GET DELETION OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS CERTAIN OBJECTIONABLE PHRASEOLOGY. DRAFTERS WERE MINTOFF, EDGAR MIZZI, AND MAURICE ABELA. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CASSAR IS ALSO AWARE OF THE EXERCISE.)
3. MINTOFF'S BOTTOM LINE EXPECTATIONS IN THE RESPONSE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 01104 281455Z

HIS LETTER, SAID FELICE, WOULD BE FURTHER REAFFIRMATION THAT WE ARE URGING THE EUROPEANS TO CONCLUDE A DIALOGUE WITH MALTA WHICH COMES CLOSER TO MEETING HIS DEMANDS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND THAT WE WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO HIS ORAL REQUEST FOR A SOFT LOAN FOR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT FOR MARSAXLOKK. MINTOFF PLACED VERY HIGH IMPORTANCE ON THE LATTER, AND FELICE THOUGHT THAT IF THE U.S. WERE

EVENTUALLY FORTHCOMING WITH SOFT TERM LENDING FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT HE WOULD NOT PRESS US TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE EUROPEANS IN MEETING HIS DEMAND FOR 14 MILLION POUNDS IN CASH GRANTS FROM THEM. IN OTHER WORDS, FELICE SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT MINTOFF MAY BE COMING TO THE POINT OF REALISTICALLY RECOGNIZING THAT GRANT AID FROM THE U.S. IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. WE SAID WE HOPED SO BUT WE WERE SKEPTICAL.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, FELICE REITERATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD EUR THAT HE FELT ZABLOCKI AND HIS ACCOMPANYING STAFFER HAD SEEMED RATHER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WITH AID, PROVIDED ACCORDING TO ZABLOCKI PRESIDENT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INDICATED TO CONGRESS HIS SUPPORT OF SUCH ASSISTANCE.

5. WE REMINDED FELICE THAT THE REQUEST FOR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT WAS AN EFFORT TO RESURRECT AN OLD ISSUE WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN EASY AND WHICH WAS IN ANY EVENT SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL AT MARSAXLOKK. WE POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD GONE THROUGH A SIMILAR EXERCISE SIX MONTHS BACK INVOLVING A LIST SUPPLIED BY THE GOM OF DESIRED SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AND WHICH THE GOM THEN PROPOSED TO PURCHASE. AS IT TURNED OUT NONE OF THE EQUIPMENT WAS AVAILABLE. FELICE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE GOM WOULD BE PROVIDING US WITH A REVISED LIST. WE ALSO STRESSED THAT A SOFT LOAN TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 01104 281455Z

EQUIPMENT WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY OUT OF THE QUESTION.

6. FELICE SAID HE HAD SAID THAT MINTOFF EXPECTED 14 MILLION MALTA POUNDS FROM EUROPE (US\$ 35-36 MILLION) PER ANNUM, NOT 17 MILLION MALTA POUNDS AS REPORTED REFTTEL.

7. FELICE MADE NO REFERENCE TO A MINTOFF VISIT TO WASHINGTON. LAINGEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VALLET01104
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780184-0156
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978042/aaaaabsd.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 420049a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 106181, 78 VALLETTA 1087
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2858047
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FELICE VISIT
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, MT, US, (FELICE, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/420049a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014